Exhibit A

The Use of ChemBridge Compound Library Has Led to Recent Important Discoveries

SAN DIEGO, September 15, 1999 -- ChemBridge Corporation today announced that two independent reports of significant scientific discoveries have cited the use of ChemBridge's DIVERSet™ screening library. Researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Harvard Medical School found the answers to their posed scientific questions in separate research projects, utilizing this universal screening library.

In the September 10, 1999 issue of Science, the UIC research team, lead by Andrei Gudkov, documented the discovery of a synthetic compound that inhibits p53, found after screening DIVERSet™ compounds. The candidate compound (pifithrin-alpha) blocked p53, a gene responsible for programmed cell death. It was revealed that a single dose of the DIVERSet™ compound produced just the non-toxic, reversible p53 inhibition, causing strong radioprotective effect in mice, that Gudkov's team was looking for. This scientific finding may lead to drugs that prevent toxic side effects of chemotherapy and radiation therapy of cancer. Gudkov commented, "We were lucky to have access to an excellent chemical library manufactured by ChemBridge. This is a high quality product with a really diverse set of compounds that are well controlled for purity and structure." Significantly, the therapeutic application of p53 might go beyond cancer and will be tried for treatment of stroke, heart attacks, and severe burns.

At the August 1999 IBC Drug Discovery Conference plenary lecture, Harvard University's Stuart Schreiber presented results from research done to help elucidate the process that drives the segregation of chromosomes during cell division. After screening ChemBridge's DIVERSet™ library, the research team found 142 compounds that had an effect on mitosis. Subsequent tests showed that 30 inhibited microtubule formation and one behaved as a Taxol mimic; however, 111 compounds had no effect on microtubules at all. "These [111] are the pearls that nature is giving us now in the form of synthetic compounds to illuminate this [mitotic] process," as Schreiber was quoted as saying in the July 26, 1999 issue of Chemical & Engineering News. Although the compounds that disrupt microtubules could also lead to drugs, Schreiber was most interested in a compound from the last group (monastrol), which did not inhibited mitosis via microtubule formation. The team found that this compound targets kinesin-related motor protein, which is needed to push microtubules apart during cell division.

Eugene F. Warberg, ChemBridge's president and CEO stated the following in regard to these reports, "I am extremely delighted that our screening compound collections have been able to contribute to discoveries of this level of scientific and medical significance. These results serve as another endorsement of 3D pharmacophore-based diversity analysis methods used by ChemBridge since 1995, first in the pioneering DIVERSet collection, that led to such remarkable discoveries, and then in our new PHARMACore™ combinatorial screening library".

ChemBridge Corporation headquartered in San Diego, CA, is a leading global provider of advanced chemical tools for high-throughput drug discovery, serving around 150 pharmaceutical, agricultural and biotech companies and research centers worldwide.

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